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Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4314th meeting of the Security Council, held on 24 April 2001, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Georgia", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes the briefing provided by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, on 24 April 2001, in accordance with paragraph 16 of its resolution 1339 (2001) of 31 January 2001. It welcomes also the presence of the Minister for Special Affairs of Georgia at its meeting.

"The Security Council stresses that the continued lack of progress on key issues of a comprehensive settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia, is unacceptable. It underlines the decisive importance of early negotiations on the core political questions of the conflict. It strongly supports, in this context, the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to promote the achievement of a comprehensive political settlement based on the resolutions of the Security Council, which must include a settlement of the political status of Abkhazia within the State of Georgia.

"The Security Council strongly supports, in particular, the intention of the Special Representative to submit, in the near future, his draft paper containing specific proposals to the parties on the question of the distribution of constitutional competences between Tbilisi and Sukhumi. It calls on all those concerned to use their influence with a view to facilitating this process.

"The Security Council welcomes the intention of the Special Representative to submit the draft paper to the parties soon, as a starting point for negotiation, and not as an attempt to impose or dictate any possible solution. It calls upon the parties constructively to accept the paper in this light and work towards a mutually acceptable settlement.

"The Security Council will remain actively seized of the matter and reaffirms its commitment to advancing the peace process."

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